

Helsingin yliopisto - Helsingfors universitet - University of Helsinki ID 2007-523

Tiedekunta-Fakultet-Faculty Faculty of Social Sciences		Laitos-Institution-Department Department of Political Science	
Tekijä-Författare-Author Laanes, Liia			
Työn nimi-Arbetets titel-Title The Role of the Public Sector in Fostering Corporate Social Responsibility : The Case of Estonia			
Oppiaine-Läroämne-Subject Administrative Studies			
Työn laji-Arbetets art-Level Master's thesis		Aika-Datum-Month and year 2007-12-10	Sivumäärä-Sidantal-Number of pages 71 p., 17 p. appendices
<p>Tiivistelmä-Referat-Abstract</p> <p>Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is not a new concept, but the focus of CSR research has shifted to the public sector in recent years. There have been some studies in Estonia about enterprises and their activities in CSR, but almost nothing concerning the public sector and CSR. Therefore studying the role of the public sector in CSR should start with mapping the current situation.</p> <p>The aim of this thesis is to map and to analyse the current role of Estonian local authorities and county governments in CSR, as well as their interests and attitudes regarding CSR and to attempt to model Estonian politics of CSR on a local level. The focus is on the local authorities, since the local authorities have more contact with the companies than the national authorities do.</p> <p>There are three main research questions for the thesis. First, do local authorities (and county governments) in Estonia share a similar understanding of CSR? Second, which roles does the public sector in Estonia generally play in fostering CSR among companies? Third, what constraints do local authorities have while furthering CSR?</p> <p>To collect the data for the thesis, a questionnaire was sent to all Estonian local municipalities and county governments. The survey mainly addressed the current CSR policies of the public sector and the challenges they face.</p> <p>The study indicates that there is some awareness of CSR in both the private and the public sector in Estonia. Though the awareness in the public sector seems to be higher than among small and medium-sized enterprises, the awareness is still an obstacle for the public sector as well. There is a connection between the level of awareness of the municipality and municipality’s size and dominating economic sector. Sustainable development is one of the central themes of CSR and the Estonian public sector is familiar with it. Though sustainable development is a part of municipal, as well as county and national, development plans, not all public sector actors may see the connection between sustainable development and CSR. Of the four main roles (mandating, facilitating, partnering, and endorsing) the public sector in Estonia favours partnering the most and mandating the least. There is interest among local municipalities and county governments to network with each other in promoting CSR.</p>			
Avainsanat-Nyckelord-Keywords corporate social responsibility public sector - roles local government counties municipalities Business-society relations Estonia			
Säilytyspaikka-Förvaringsställe-Where deposited			
Muita tietoja-Övriga uppgifter-Additional information			